

From:
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(note that the state info in the fillout form is INCORRECT;
the Netherlands doesn't have states but I could not leave
the field blank)

I would like to add a comment to the flurry of recent petitions
on removal of the morse code test for access to the HF bands,
as a result of the WRC'03 recommendations.

As a Dutch citizen, I believe I am not qualified to comment on
whether morse testing is required for USA licensees.
However, I would like to comment on the situation for foreign
reciprocal licensees.

Reciprocal licensing has gotten a lot easier as the FCC accepts
the CEPT agreement. This saves a lot of trouble experienced
earlier with 610-A forms and all.

As a result of WRC03, several CEPT countries (including the
Netherlands) have dropped the morse requirement. In many cases,
morse code exams have stopped as well; the Netherlands will
have one final session in December but it's more of a ceremony.
It is difficult to continue these since they are official
government exams; the Netherlands doesn't have a VEC program),
so if the government stops administering them (which they have
announced they will do), morse examination really stops.

At any rate, for many foreign licensees it will be extremely
difficult to pass a morse code test if the test isn't administered
in one's own country anymore.
If the morse code requirements are kept for foreign licensees,
this would mean that a visitor would be required to
pass an exam while visiting the USA.
This makes things extremely difficult for foreign licensees,
a lot more difficult than the old 610-A situation.

Therefore, whatever the FCC decides for USA licensees,
I would like to ask the FCC to consider the situation for foreign
licensees, especially cases where no morse code testing exists
in one's home country.

Respectfully submitted,

Geert Jan de Groot
Eindhoven, the Netherlands.